

We Greet the Independent People's Republic of Bangladesh

Now that the West Pak Military forces in Bangladesh have been completely routed and the country has emerged fully as an independent sovereign People's Republic, a new milestone has been reached by the people of Bangladesh to lead their national liberation struggle to newer victories for a full and independent development of the new nation.

Though this new born state, emerged through struggle against colonial subjugation by the West Pak military clique and a section of the dominant Punjabnationality bourgeoisie of West Pakistan, has not yet earned the recognition by other countries of the world except by India, Bhutan, Bulgaria and German Democratic Republic still it is an irrefutable fact that Bangladesh now has a distinct national identity, unrelated to West Pakistan, and should be recognised as such, sooner than later by the rest of the world.

The history of national

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liberation struggle of Bangladesh, like the history of struggle of all countries which fought for and are still fighting for complete national emancipation has its own peculiarities. Since the period of formation of Pakistan as a nation, it lacked some important ingredients making up a modern nation. The Pakistan nation did not grow out of a protracted anti-British imperialist struggle leading to the formation of a distinct national psychology, a national feeling and a concept of a new nation but by the artificial vivisection of the country and thereby creating a cleavage in such a process of formation of a united nation comprising the territories of both the Indian Union and Pakistan. Thus the state of Pakistan was foisted by the Britishers, with the two wings of Pakistan, namely the East and the West wing having two different psychology, language, feeling and cultural make-up and

separated by a wide geographical territory, affecting centralisation and centralised administration of Pakistan. So, owing to the absence of that objective process of developing the concept of one nation and one national, psychological make-up of the entire people of Pakistan, it was impossible to forge this psychological unity of the people inhabiting West and East Pakistan despite serious endeavours of the West Pak ruling clique on the basis of the slogan of Islamic religious unity. It is to be noted that in spite of some success being scored at the very outset by the West Pakistani military rulers in achieving unity among the people on the slogan of Islamic bondage, they could not ultimately bring about the national cohesion based on one national outlook and a sense of belonging to one nation of the peoples of the two widely separated regions. This attempt of the military clique of Pakistan to unify the peoples on the basis of Islamic religious tradition and culture failed in its objective precisely because it was unhistorical and unobjective inasmuch as a religion cannot be the basis of a modern nation. So what actually happened was ruthless suppression of Bengali culture and tradition of the people of Bangladesh, resulting in a deeper resentment of the people there against West Pak rulers. Besides this cultural suppression, the indescribable nature of economic and political exploitation by the military junta along with the

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Cong(R)-Jotedar-Police Clique Terrorising Peasantry

(By a staff Reporter)

Poor peasants, agricultural labourers and the common masses in two police station areas of Burdwan district—Faridpur and Andal—are frightfully passing their days through a reign of terror created by the notorious Congress (R) Jotedar with the active help of police and anti-social elements.

Sarpi, Kuchdihi, Ichhapur, Tilajhuri, Jamgara, Balijuri, Kalipur, Kulbani and Jhanjhra villages in the Faridpur PS area and Patshaora, Bashuri villages in Andal PS area were scenes of Police-Jotedar terror during the past few months. In order to deprive the poor peasants and share croppers, organised under the Krishak & Khet Majoor Federation, led by the SUC—Police, jotedar and anti-socials are jointly launching attacks on peasants with guns, spears and bows and arrows. Even peasant women are not being spared from their attacks.

All the attacks follow a similar pattern. First the jotedar and goondas attack the poor peasants and then the police, following their footsteps, raid the villages, arrest poor peasants and peasant organisers on false charges at the instigation of the jotedar and take them to the police station where they are subjected to severe physical torture and beating.

Repeated complaints to local authorities and appeals for remedies having been failed, Com. Nihar Mukherjee, Secretary West Bengal State Committee

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Contribute Liberally to the Election Fund of the Party

Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of some of the States in India will be held in the month of March next. Our Party is going to contest in these elections. The Party depends solely on the people and their contributions to it. As a correct revolutionary working class party wedded to the task of emancipating the exploited masses of the people in our country it accepts this mass-line as the only correct way of raising funds. The Central Committee of the S. U. C. I., therefore, appeals to the people to contribute the maximum amount possible for them towards the Election Fund in order that the Party can successfully fight the election battle against the Congress (R) and other reactionary parties in the country and thereby carry forward the democratic struggle of the people inside the Legislature.

Solidarity with the Socialist Camp and the Progressive Forces

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bourgeoisie of the dominant Punjabi nationality virtually reduced Bangladesh to a colony of the Western region. While the industrial development of West Pakistan grew apace with the wealth and raw materials of the Eastern wing, the economic development of Bangladesh virtually stood still giving no benefit to the East Bengalees. Such an exploitation in all fields and denial of minimum democratic rights to develop their life gave birth of a new nationalism, the Bengali nationalism, which was, by all means, a variant of Pakistan nationalism, and shook the people of Bangladesh. The West Pak ruling circle, however, without realising the nature and character of this new nationalism, proceeded towards forcible suppression of it. As a result, Bangladesh gradually wore on a distinctly different national identity and ultimately pushed the entire people to completely free their land from the colonial yoke of the West Pakistan ruling clique. As explained by our beloved leader and teacher Com. Shibdas Ghosh, this national feeling of Bangladesh being freed from the religious superstitions of Pakistan nationalism and by way of a genuine national uprising and patriotic upheaval there has given birth of a completely new nationalism and Bangladesh has occupied its place in the pages of history as a new born nation.

If the present freedom struggle in Bangladesh there had suffered a temporary setback and been forcibly suppressed by the military might of the West Pak regime, even then this freedom struggle would inevitably have appeared in future. Due to the presence of these historical peculiarities, in case of Bangladesh, it would be erroneous to view the freedom struggle there as

a secessionist movement or a movement to secede from a centralised bourgeois national state. If Pakistan existed as a modern centralised bourgeois national state and the nature of resentment of the people of the then East Pakistan against its western counterpart were merely limited to a feeling of oppression by a dominant nationality on a dominated nationality, then definitely the character of the movement would have been otherwise. In that case, the main object of the struggle would have been to earn more extensive democratic rights for the dominated nationality keeping in constant view the close unity of the working people throughout the state in order to accelerate the process of anti-capitalist socialist revolution. There the secessionist movement would not only be weakening the centralised capitalist state, but also, in a sense, in the economic terms, be directed against socialism since "the more the capitalist centralisation is there the more the intensification of the process of transformation of the society to socialism in economic terms". (quoted from a speech of Com. Shibdas Ghosh, our beloved leader and teacher and the General Secretary of the SUCI addressed to party workers at a recent meeting held in Calcutta) So, nowhere a Marxist has ever supported this type of secessionist movement and there can be no question of supporting it even now. But since the struggle in Bangladesh was not a struggle to achieve more democratic rights conducted against the dominant nationality, and as the struggle for the above mentioned peculiarities of Pakistan was a struggle for complete national independence on the basis of a distinct Bangali nationalism against the oppression of the West Pakistan ruling clique which took the character of

colonial exploitation, so let alone the Marxist-Leninists, even the freedom-loving persons all over the world had a sacred duty to render unequivocal support to this freedom struggle of Bangladesh.

Now through the conduction of prolonged struggle against the West Pak colonial rule and undergoing tremendous sufferings and sacrifices, the new independent Republic of Bangladesh which has just come into being—if it has to fulfil the independent aspirations of the people of Bangladesh and keep unhindered the free development of all aspects of social life, then on the one hand, it is necessary to safeguard its independence from all attacks of the imperialist powers and to extend unstinted support to all national independence movements throughout the world for routing the imperialist camp and on the other, it is vitally important for the new Republic to proceed towards socialism through non-capitalist way of development so as to free its people from all sorts of exploitation of man by man. In the present international situation, where there stands as the bulwark of world peace the socialist camp, the progressive democratic and revolutionary forces and the peace loving people throughout the world on one side, and the aggressive war camp of world imperialism-capitalism on the other side—it is only through the establishment of closer link with the socialist camp and the progressive revolutionary forces, that the independence and sovereignty of the newly independent underdeveloped countries can be saved from any overt or covert aggression of the imperialist camp. Also it should be borne in mind that true patriotism can never be antagonistic to the communist ideology. Rather it is analogous with the

communist ideology. The banner of patriotism cannot be upheld in any country in the present time by being hostile to the communist ideology. In fact, such a hostility invariably pushes the country to the lap of the imperialists and the national independence itself is threatened thereby. So, if the patriotic people of Bangladesh want to keep ablaze the fire of freedom and safeguard their independence, if they will to accelerate the process of development of all walks of life freed from any imperialist interference or intervention, then it is most important to forge closest unity with the socialist camp and the peace camp and actively support all progressive movements, the national liberation and revolutionary struggles raging anywhere in the world in order to give a crushing blow to the imperialist war machine and intrigues.

In the matter of economic reconstruction and on the question of freedom of Bangladesh the Indian Government and particularly the Indian people have an important role to play. Our Party believes and often before, it has suggested that the Bangladesh nationalism providing the basis of a magnificent national uprising we have witnessed there bears no relation with the Indian nationalism. In essence, it was a different expression of Pakistan nationalism. So if we think that out of this struggle in Bangladesh, the two parts of Bengal will merge together and Bangladesh will become a part of Indian Union, as because we were one once upon a time and we have a great deal of similarities in our language and culture, then it will endanger the very cause of freedom of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has emerged historically as a new nation and nothing can change

this reality. To harbour any illusion of this type or to render assistance to Bangladesh people with an attitude to dominate over them will surely result in making the freedom-loving people of Bangladesh grow suspicious about our real intentions and create wide schism between the two peoples. So there can be only one way to help the Bangladeshi people, that is, to help them selflessly. Otherwise, not only a lot of misunderstanding will inevitably follow embittering the relation between the two countries, but also, as its concomitant evil, the normal processes of life in this country will be in severe jeopardy there by dealing a heavy blow the democratic forces and progressive democratic movements and none but the reactionary and communal forces of our country will take full advantage of this situation. So, in the interest of progressive democratic and revolutionary movements of our country any hegemonistic attitude on our part should be principledly forshaken. And our responsibility does not end simply here either. It is true that the common people of our country have genuinely felt that Bangladesh should emerge as an independent sovereign Republic and also from the very beginning of the struggle, mounted constant pressure on Indian Government so as to render all out assistance to the freedom fighters of Bangladesh for achieving their full independence. For whatever help the Indian Government has extended towards Bangladesh freedom struggle in conformity with this massive mandate of our people, we naturally feel happy for it. But still it is essential that we should be very much careful about one thing. What is the most vital task for us now is to develop the democratic movement on a correct

of the World—Real Guarantee to Safeguard Independence

footing to attain a minimum ideological standard and firm policy which the democratic movement is now tragically lacking for the purpose of conducting a mighty united democratic struggle of the common people. Such a need is extremely important to be met in the interests of progressive movements of our country as also for helping the defence of Bangladesh freedom against any threat of imperialist aggression or intervention. Besides, just as we are to organise movements so that the India Government renders selflessly all possible help for the economic rehabilitation of Bangladesh, similarly, we have to concert all our efforts towards continuous development of our bilateral relationship with Bangladesh on the basis of complete equality, mutual benefit and respect for sovereignty of each country as has already been declared by the Indian Government. Such a need is necessary to fulfil, more so, because the Indian business magnates with their promptness in showing keen interest for industrial investment in Bangladesh and exploiting its vast market and raw materials are actually betraying their expansionist urge for the exploitation of other people, and sensing this, which will embitter the mutual relation between the two countries at this stage, our Government as desired by the Indian people has also cautioned the private traders and businessmen not to cash in on the present troubled situation in Bangladesh. So it is essential that the people should keep themselves highly vigilant and must not allow the unscrupulous business circle to influence the India Government, divert it from its declared policy and thereby strain the relation between the two peoples.

The declaration of the newly established Bangladesh Government that it deter-

mines to uphold the secular principles for the defence of democracy and introduction of democratic way of life in the society is definitely a welcome step towards democratisation of the society. But if the democratic principles of life are really to flourish and all sorts of obscurantist ideas and prejudices be ostracised from society, then a clear scientific notion of the term 'secularism' must be there. What does 'secularism' really mean and what steps should we take to reflect it in life have most vividly been explained by our beloved leader and teacher and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the day, Com. Shibdas Ghosh in his address to the delegates of the Democratic Convention held in 1964 in New Delhi. We are quoting below some relevant portions of his speech.

"It should be realised that true secularism does not mean encouraging the individual to profess, practise and propagate his religious faith. Nor does it pre-suppose state-patronage to every religious faith so as to expand the influence of religion over the masses of the people. Far less does it aim at giving some premium to a given community professing a particular faith, by offering it special privileges on religious consideration alone. A really secular state considers religion as the private affair of its citizens and does not therefore, interfere, either by encouragement or by opposition in the profession, practice and propagation of religion by the individual. It, on the contrary, guarantees full freedom to the believers to profess any faith as well as to the non-believers. By carrying out the tasks of social and cultural revolutions it democratises the society and takes the wind out of the sail of religion in so far as its influence on the social

activities of the individual and on the state is concerned."

Then again "Religion will certainly continue to exist but it will be solely the private affair of the individual, having no relation with the affairs of the state and no influence on the social activities of the individual. Thus, the movement aims at placing religion in its proper place. It may be argued that if religion continues to exist, it is bound to influence social activities of the individual. I do not find any tangible ground for this apprehension. In my opinion this apprehension arises out of confusion between religion and religious or social customs. Religion and religious customs are two different things. Customs changed in the past and will change in future as well to fit in with changed social conditions. So, anyone fighting for a change in the existing religious customs cannot be accused of hostility to or renunciation of religion." It is only on the basis of this outlook and understanding that the secular principles of life can truly be upheld and with the society being freed from the pernicious influences of religion and religious prejudices, the mutual relationship between the individuals of the society can be developed on the basis of democratic consciousness alone and a firm democratic unity built up amongst them.

Lastly while expressing our solidarity with the people of Bangladesh and showing our deepest regard to their aspirations of freedom and social progress, we are making an appeal to them in this connection. It is now an undeniable fact that only the reactionaries and the vested people all over the world become delighted seeing disunity among the struggling people. Only the standard bearers of reaction want to disrupt the people's unity for weakening their just struggle

and demolishing the noble cause for which they are sacrificing their lives in legions. So if they are to foil these dirty machinations of the reactionary clique, and safeguard the independence and sovereignty of their country, then the most important task before them is to unite as a solid rock all the freedom-loving, democratic-minded, progressive people of Bangladesh irrespective of the party, faith or creed they may belong to. To fulfil this object, what is most urgently needed is to unite all the parties, forces and organisations which took part in Bangladesh freedom struggle. If the entire population there are to be mobilised for safeguarding their national independence and rebuilding their war-torn economy, then, we believe, it is only through forging steel-like unity amongst the fighting Bangladesh people without any further delay that these twin objectives can be effectively met.

Orissa Cement Workers Protest Victimisation

Rourkela, January 10. The management of the Orissa Cement Rajgangpur has illegally dismissed two workers and victimised others with the sole motive of demoralising the fighting employees organised under the Orissa Cement Workers Union. Most recently, the union launched a campaign against the health hazard caused by the pollution of atmosphere with cement dusts. They demanded of the management to immediately take effective anti-pollution measures.

At a meeting of the Orissa Cement Workers on January 3, Com. Sk. Qasim, local SUCI leader strongly criticised the anti-labour steps of the management and demanded immediate reinstatement of the dismissed workers and stopping of all repressive measures.

World Decries US Bombing on N. Vietnam

For five days beginning from 26th December 1971 hundreds of U.S. warplanes continuously bombed North Vietnam round the clock. In this bombing operation, the U.S. imperialists spared no one. Educational institution, hospitals and places of worship have been bombed and many residential areas have been completely wiped away.

The use of near nuclear bomb near Hanoi has shocked the whole of the world. According to two U.S. scientists the 6,800 Kg. bomb that hit Hanoi is surpassed only by a nuclear weapon in destructive power. The U.S. military men in Vietnam referred this type of bomb as "the next best thing to a nuke" (nuclear bomb).

This barbarous and criminal act of the U.S. imperialists once again proves beyond any shadow of doubt that all talks of de-escalation of Vietnam war by the Nixon Administration are complete hoax. This so-called de-escalation by Nixon Administration is being promised as the U.S. imperialists are facing one defeat after another in Vietnam war and also due to the mounting offensive of the peace movement within the country. The shattering U.S. economy and the consequent weakening of the U.S. dollar due to the Vietnam war are also creating growing resentment within the country. So with a view to pacify the growing adverse criticism within the country the Nixon administration cunningly promised to de-escalate the war efforts in Vietnam and bombing on North Vietnam was stopped in 1968. But that this cunning act of U.S. imperialists is only to hoodwink the public opinion and also to gain time for greater offensive on Vietnam, has once again been proved. There is no doubt that the U.S. imperialists will try its utmost to regain its lost image to the countries of South East Asia. The myth of the U.S. military might that attracted many countries of

the world is at present at low ebb and as such the exit of South-East Asia from the sphere of influence of the imperialists is a certainty. So the US imperialists are very worried and this desperate and reckless bombing on North Vietnam shows that the Nixon Administration is making a last bid to gain military victory even by trampling the world opinion and mounting anti-war movement within the U.S.

This barbarous act of bombing on North Vietnam evoked widespread condemnation by most of the countries of the world. In the USA itself, there is mounting opposition to the air assault on North Vietnam. Even three Democratic Presidential contenders who are no friend of Vietnam but on the contrary defenders of the US imperialism, condemned this bombing due to the pressure of the mounting anti-war movement within the U.S.

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It is apparent that the U.S. imperialists are not at all interested in a negotiated settlement and as such Paris peace talk has been downgraded and they are seeking a military solution. So militarily the US imperialists must be decisively defeated. The heroic people of Vietnam are gaining one victory after another and there is no doubt that the last soldier of the US imperialists will be driven out from the sacred land of Vietnam. In this task of the Vietnamese people, it is earnestly expected that the socialist countries will provide every possible help to

them so that this bloody war is put to an end in no time. There is no doubt that the Soviet Union is the mightiest power in the socialist camp and it alone can effectively counteract the US imperialists. It is a fact that the Soviet Union has been providing help to North Vietnam but the question is whether or not such help of conventional weapons is only prolonging the war and by doing so it only helps the US imperialists. The US economy is artificially boosted by military expenditure and the character of US economy is essentially war economy. As such war is essential for the US imperialists to clear off the sinews of war thus stockpiled. So any prolongation of war will be a boon to the US imperialists. Moreover, how can it be explained that in spite of such enormous military might of the Soviet Union, the US imperialists can hit Hanoi with bomb which is a near nuclear bomb

in destructive capacity, with impunity? If the ICBM and other modern weapons of the Soviet Union are useless to protect the brotherly socialist state of Democratic Republic of North Vietnam, then what these are for? These weapons are surely not meant for preservation in museum. As such it is earnestly appealed to the leaders of the Soviet Union that they will change their present political attitude towards US imperialism and effectively counteract the US imperialists so that they do not dare to carry on their war of aggression anywhere in the world.

It is the duty of all left and democratic parties in our country to mobilise support in favour of struggling people of Vietnam and to build up massive movement against the US imperialists and create effective pressure on the Govt. of India to snap all ties with the barbarous US imperialists, main enemy of mankind.

D S O Condemns Lathi-Charge on Students in Kerala

(By a Staff Reporter)

Quilon, January, 5:

Police today lathi-charged without any provocation the students of Sri Narayana College here when the later were picketting at the State Transport buses demanding busstop in front of the college. As a result of this unprovoked police attack about three hundred students were severely injured. The police ransacked the laboratory of the college and damaged laboratory equipments and furniture and insulted the Principal and several lecturers of the college.

Among the seriously injured members was Com. R. Pavithran, a member of the Kerala State Organising Committee of the All India D. S. O.

Com. C. K. Lukose, Secretary, Kerala State

Organising Committee of the All India D. S. O. has in a statement strongly condemned the unprovoked police attack on the students and criticised the policy of the Achyut Menon Government of attempts to crush violently the legitimate democratic movements by the students.

It is reported that Mr. Baby John of the R.S.P., Revenue Minister of Kerala personally asked the police to disperse the students by lathi-charging.

Police-Jotedar Terror

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of the SUCI and Com. Subodh Banerjee met the Home Secretary of the State Government at Writers' Buildings on Monday, January 10 and submitted detailed reports of the incidents and demanded that an immediate enquiry be made by a high official and effective steps taken against the offenders.